

Following Jesus Discipleship Program

for

JESUS Film Harvest Partners

Standard B

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STANDARD B: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “IN CHRIST”?

Lesson 1: How Is Jesus Related to God?

- A. God Is Lord**
- B. Jesus Christ Is Lord**
- C. Jesus Is Lord of all Things**

Lesson 2: How Did Jesus Establish the Kingdom of God?

- A. Jesus Demonstrated the Authority of God’s Kingdom**
- B. Jesus Showed How the Kingdom of God Differs from the Kingdoms of the World**
- C. Jesus’ Died to Establish the Kingdom of God**

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- A. It Is Possible to Live as a Disciple in Our Part of the World**
- B. Disciples of Jesus Need to Rely Totally on God.**
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- E. Disciples of Jesus Take up the Cross Daily**
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- A. For Jesus to be Lord of our Lives, We Must Lose Our Lives to Jesus**
- B. For Jesus to Be Lord of Our Lives, We Must Be Sanctified by Jesus**

Lesson 5: How Does the Holy Spirit Make Jesus Present to Us Now?

- A. Fruit of the Spirit**
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Lesson 6: What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus as a Way of Life?

- A. Following Jesus Means Living as a Forgiven Person**
- B. Following Jesus Means Living as a Changed Person**
- C. Following Jesus Means Being Shaped by God’s Story**

Lesson 7: How Do We Stay Close to Jesus?

- A. We Stay Close to Jesus by Worshiping Him**
- B. We Stay Close to Jesus Through the Word**
- C. We Stay Close to Jesus Through Prayer**
- D. We Stay Close to Jesus by Living Obediently**

STANDARD B: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “IN CHRIST”?

Lesson 1: How Is Jesus Related to God?

Introduction

One day Jesus was praying. His disciples were near by. Jesus asked them, “Who do the people say that I am?” The disciples gave Him a number of answers. But then Jesus asked the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah of God.”

In this lesson we are going to discuss how Jesus is related to God.

A. God Is Lord.

An angel appeared to Mary and told her she would become the mother of Jesus. The name Jesus means “Savior.” Savior is a title that is sometimes used for God in the Old Testament. God is called Savior because of His acts of redemption.

Mary then went to visit Elizabeth her cousin. While there, Mary sang a song to God her Savior. She spoke of God as Lord, which means “one who rules.” The Jews used the word *Lord* to speak of God. Mary said, “My soul praises the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1:46).

After John the Baptist was born, his father sang a song of praise to God. He too spoke of God as Lord. Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel” (Luke 1:68). The words *Lord* and *God* mean the same thing in this verse.

On the night Jesus was born, angels told some shepherds about His birth. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The shepherds were surrounded by God’s presence. “The glory of the Lord shone around them” (Luke 2:9). Again, the words *Lord* and *God* mean the same. The glory of the Lord means the presence of God who alone is Creator and Redeemer.

Question: What do the names Lord and God mean?

Question: Why was there joy when Jesus was born?

Question: Why did Mary sing a song to God?

B. Jesus Christ Is Lord.

At the time of Jesus’ birth, the presence of God frightened the shepherds. But the angel told them not to fear. The angel brought Good News that a Savior had been born. The angel called Him “the Messiah,” which means the anointed one. Jesus was anointed and appointed by God to bring salvation to all persons.

The angel also called Jesus “Savior,” which means the One who saves or delivers. Often Jesus is called Savior in the New Testament. As we said earlier, only God can be the Savior. Jesus is the Savior that God promised through the prophets He would send into the world. God made salvation possible to all persons through Jesus, His only Son. If God alone is Savior, and if Jesus is the Savior, then in Jesus we meet God himself. God the Savior has come to us in Jesus.

The angel also called Jesus “Lord.” This is the same word that Mary and the father of John the Baptist used to speak of God. Jews often used the word “Lord” to speak of God. He alone is Ruler over heaven and earth and over all things. God is the Creator and Redeemer. When the angel called Jesus “Lord,” the angel meant to tell us that in Jesus of Nazareth God himself had come to us. In Jesus, God the Savior and Lord is present with us. This is indeed Good News. That is why the angel rejoiced, and why we rejoice too.

Jesus’ early disciples called Him “Lord.” They came to understand that Jesus is one with God. So, the earliest creed or statement about Jesus was “Jesus is Lord.” Only God can be the Lord, the Savior.

Question: What was the Good News the angel brought to the shepherds?

Question: What do the names Lord and Savior mean?

1. Jesus is fully God.

God was present in the person of Jesus of Nazareth in a way that caused the angel to speak of Him as God. Christians believe that when they meet Jesus they meet God. To be in the presence of Jesus is to be in the presence of God. Only God is Savior. If Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior, then He is God.

Many times Luke speaks of Jesus as “Lord.”

- a. Jesus is called “Lord” when He raises the son of a widow from the dead (Luke 7:13).
- b. He is called “Lord” when He sends some of His followers out in pairs to preach the Good News. When the followers returned, they called Jesus “Lord” (Luke 10:1, 17).
- c. Once the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. They called Him “Lord” (Luke 11:1).
- d. Zacchaeus called Jesus “Lord” when Jesus went to his house (Luke 19:8).
- e. Jesus speaks of himself as “Lord” when He tells the disciples to borrow a donkey (Luke 19:31).
- f. After Jesus’ resurrection, the disciples speak of Jesus as “Lord” (Luke 24:34).

Jesus Christ is the Lord God come to us in human form. He is God incarnate. Incarnation is the event of God becoming man. The eternal Son of God entered history in the person of Jesus. Still He continued to be God. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human. To call Jesus “Lord and Savior” is to recognize that He is God.

Question: Why is it important to know who Jesus is?

Question: Why did the early Christians rejoice to know who Jesus is?

2. Jesus is fully human.

Jesus was born of a human mother and lived while on earth among oppressed people. He grew up as other children do, having fun and obeying His parents. He worked with His hands as a carpenter, building objects for people to use. Jesus grew tired as we do, and He experienced rejection as many people do today. He showed deep human compassion for people, and He wept because of human sadness and loss. Jesus also knew pain and temptation as we do. Finally, He died on the Cross. Jesus would have stayed dead, if His Heavenly Father had not raised Him from the grave.

It is very important for Christians to recognize that Jesus of Nazareth was fully human. God became one of us, so He could fully experience our humanity. God fully identified with us in Jesus. It is also very important that Christians recognize that Jesus is fully God. Yet, He is one person. He is Jesus Christ. Because of this and because Jesus is God, Christ can be our Savior also. He can be the Redeemer of the world.

Because Jesus Christ is fully human and fully God, He reveals the characteristics of both God and humanity. When we look at Jesus, we know who God is and what God is like. When we look at Jesus, we also know the meaning of being a human.

Question: When we see Jesus, we see God. What characteristics does God have that we can see in Jesus?

Question: When we look at Jesus, we see a good model of the type of person we should be. How should we act and what should we do?

C. Jesus Is Lord of all Things.

One Sabbath Jesus and His disciples were walking through a field of grain. The Sabbath was the seventh day of the week. Sabbath means “rest.” The Sabbath was the weekly day of rest and worship for the Jews. The Bible says God rested on the seventh day of creation (Genesis 2:1-3). Therefore, Saturday is the Jewish day of rest, which is their Sabbath.

On this particular Sabbath, Jesus’ disciples took some of the ripe grain and ate it. Some of Jesus’ critics accused His disciples of sinning by plucking and eating the grain. They said this because, by their law, the disciples were working on the Sabbath. They thought this violated the third commandment about honoring the Sabbath. Jesus responded, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath” (Luke 6:1-5). Jesus’ answer seems strange. What did He mean? The Sabbath was very important for Jews. When God created the world, He rested from all His works on the Sabbath day. He commanded His people to honor the Sabbath by not working.

Just as Jesus said He is Lord of the Sabbath, so He is Lord over all things. He created all things, and all of creation is to serve Him. When Christians affirm Jesus is Lord, they mean that God has come to us in human flesh. We meet God himself in Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus Christ establishes the reign of God over all things. Nothing in the world can finally stand against Him as Lord. All earthly kingdoms one day will recognize He is Lord. All powers that stand against God's people must bow down to His will eventually.

Question: Of what is Jesus Lord?

Question: Why must we honor the Sabbath?

Conclusion

Christians must serve only one Lord. When a person becomes a Christian, he or she should permit Jesus Christ to become the Lord of their lives. No other way of being a Christian is satisfactory. To affirm that Jesus is Lord means that one is ready to place one's whole world and self in service to Jesus Christ. True followers of Jesus will throw out all of their old idols and service to false gods and serve the only true God.

Activity: What will you need to do to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life? What will be necessary for God to rule in all things so that you may honor and worship Him? Discuss these questions with your discipleship group.

Activity: Is there anything in your home or work that keeps Jesus from being Lord of your life? If so, you need to get rid of it. Only then can be Jesus is Lord of your life.